

MADAGASCAR LEMURS 12 days

Itinerary:



Day 1 : Arrive Antananarivo (D)

Upon arrival in Antananarivo transfer to your hotel and time to relax from the flight.

Lodging: Palissandre hotel

Day 2 : Antananarivo - Andasibe (B)

After breakfast enjoy a city tour of Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. Then leave for Andasibe through the green landscape of the east. It brings you to the lush part of the country with many primary forest and lakes. On the way stop in Pyereras Reptiles park to see chameleons and other species of reptiles. During a walk inside the forest you have a chance to spot 2 species of lemurs, the sifaka coquereli and the brown lemurs fulvus.

Lodging: Mantadia lodge

Day 3 : Andasibe National Park (B)

In the morning explore the Andasibe National Park, a huge tropical rainy forest in the east of the country. 9 species of lemurs can be spotted here, the highlight is the "Indri Indri" which is the largest lemurs of the island. This 810 ha reserve is home to a variety of unique vegetation and wildlife like orchids, canopy and endemic animals like chameleons, tenrecs, and many birds. After the hike visit a typical Betsimisaraka village, the second largest tribe here.

Lodging: Mantadia lodge

Day 4 : Andasibe - Antsirabe (B)

Today after breakfast head south to Antsirabe across the highland landscape with terraced rice-fields and spectacular eroded hills called "lavaka". Arrive in Antsirabe, founded by Norwegians in 1856, it is an elegant city with a European feel. The clement climate, thermal springs and wide avenues makes it one of the most attractive towns in Madagascar. You have a city tour here and visit various artisans shops.

Lodging: Chambre du Voyageur lodge

Day 5 : Antsirabe - Ranomafana (B)

After breakfast start your drive through the highlands towards Ambositra, a city known for its wood carving and handicrafts. You visit of a typical workshop where you can see the local craftsmen at work. Later continue to Ranomafana, a national park created in 1991. It covers an area of 40,000 ha and consists of steep hills from where numerous small streams run into the river Namorona, tumbling down the valley in a series of waterfalls and rapids.

Lodging: Centrest Sejour hotel

Day 6 : Ranomafana National Park (B)

In the morning start your expedition into the forest with a local guide to look for the 12 species of lemurs, Ranomafana is the most important site of lemurs in Madagascar. It is the only confirmed place for the two rarest species, the greater bamboo and the golden bamboo lemur. The park is also home to more than 100 bird species, and a variety of viverrids, reptiles, lizards and butterflies. The area is covered with forest and home to orchids, steep mountains, dramatic waterfalls and natural hot springs. The name Ranomafana means "hot water" due to its thermal springs.

Lodging: Centrest Sejour hotel

Day 7 : Ranomafana - Isalo (B)

Today leave for Fianarantsoa, the second largest city of the country, called "The Gate of the South". Fianarantsoa is the capital of the Betsileo tribe. It is the centre of the catholic religion and the seat of the Jesuit order. After a city tour continue on southwards to Ambalavao. Here you visit a wine maker and have a wine tasting. Later drive along the mountain chain of Andringitra to Ihosy, the capital of the Bara tribe. You can see the transition between the green highland and the dry south now. Huge granite blocks are marking the spacious and empty plains here. Arrive in Isalo in the afternoon.

Lodging: Isalo Rock lodge

Day 8 : Isalo National Park (B)

After breakfast start your tour of the Isalo National Park. It covers an area of 81,540 ha, the entire stretch of the Isalo massif. It offers a spectacular view of Isalo's eroded sandstone mountains with their different colors and strange formations giving impressions of images like "the tortoise", "the masks" and "the crocodiles". During the hike in the park you can see tombs inside rock clefts as these mountains are also a Bara burial place. The canyon is breathtaking with its deep gorge. It is also possible to spot lemur species like the sifaka, brown lemurs and ring-tails and a large variety of birds. In the late afternoon you visit La Fenêtre de l'Isalo, a popular natural rock window that frames the setting sun for a perfect sunset.

Lodging: Isalo Rock lodge

Day 9 : Isalo - Zombitse National Park - Tulear - Ifaty (B)

This morning leave for Ilakaka, a tiny village transformed into a busy town since the discovery of sapphire 15 years ago. From there drive to Zombitse National Park where you have a guided tour in this semi-dry tropical forest, home to 6 species of lemurs. From here new scenery arises, the semi-dry forest of the west, baobabs and the thorny bush of the south. On the way to Tulear you can see the colorful tombs of the Mahafaly and Antandroy tribes. Arrive in Tuléar for a city tour before continuing northwards to Ifaty.

Lodging: Demeure de la Compagnie Generale des Huiles Precieuses

Day 10 : Ifaty (B)

Today after breakfast enjoy a day at leisure. Ifaty is situated in the largest lagoon of the country, it is an ideal place to relax. Many optional excursions are possible like whale watching or diving and snorkeling along the protected coral reef.

Lodging: Demeure de la Compagnie Generale des Huiles Precieuses

Day 11 : Ifaty - Antananarivo (B)

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your domestic flight to Antananarivo. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel for overnight.

Lodging: Relais des plateaux hotel

Day 12 : Antananarivo Departure (B)

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your international return flight.

